SITUATION AT TORREON IS IN DOUBT

Reports From Federal Sources Persist That Villa Has Been Routed With Heavy Losses

REBELS CLAIM THAT TORREON IS SURROUNDED

"We Are Expecting Victory at Any Hour," Declares Rebel Agent at El Paso-An Official Report Says Relative Positions of Two Armies Are Unchanged-Villa Wires to Juarez That He Expects to Have Torreon by Saturday.

ing reports today left the situation at Gomez Palacio and Torreon a matter of conjecture.

General Villa telegraphed to Manuel Chao at Juarez that he had been in possession of Gomez Palacio since morning and predicted that the rebels would have Torreon not later than Saturday, On the other hand, Miguel Disbold, of Huerta's consular service. exhibited telegrams declaring that the rebels had been repulsed at all points. Diebeld alleged that when at first the rebels thought they had Gomez Pa-lacio they were the victims of a trap. as a result of which many were killed and wounded and 600 were taken pris-

Federal Retreat a Feint.

The federal retreat, he said, was a feint to draw the rebels over 127 dynamite mines which were exploded

inder them under them.
General Villa's telegram asserted that the rebels were still maintaining a base at El Verjel, five miles from Gomez Palacio, while the railroad line was being repaired. He added that the federals had attempted to evacuate Torreon through hills to the south, but had been driven back into the city.

According to Chao Villa asserted According to Chao, Villa asserted that for the 24 hours preceding his taking of Gomes Palacio, the battle was confined mostly to artillery prac-tice and that his men today were moving into positions for the attack on

False Claims by Both Sides.

Observers of the situation here say they have been so often misled in thi last ten days by so-called official re-ports by both sides that neither official utterance was impressive. More importance, it was said, was attached to the renewed embargo which has prevented newspaper correspondents at the front from sending impartial stories of events under their observ-

MEXICO CITY REPORT.

General Villa's Army Defeated-700 Rebels Said to Be Killed.

of the reported defeat of General Villa's army at Torreon by federal forces under General Velasco, given in a message received at Mexican war office at noon today. The rebel losses are placed at 700

FROM FEDERAL GENERAL

Despatch Claims Rout of Rebels With

Eagle Pass, Texas, March 26.—Following the repulse of General Francisco Villa and bis rebel army, fighting has been resumed near Torreon at Noe, a few miles north of Gomez Palacio This was the substance of a brief despatch to federal headquarters in Piedras Negras late today, said to have come direct from the battlefield. The message was sent by General Joaquin Maas.

An earlier message which it was erplained, related to events of last night,

'Our arms victorious at Gomez Pala. cio. More than 2,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. Cavalry pursuing." Federal officials at Piedras Negras interpreted the latter message from General Maas as meaning that Villa had been driven from Gomez Palacio toward the north, but whether the en- reon, is the nearest point of com-gagement at Noe was a final stand by munication.

SUFFRAGETTES THROW **BOTTLES AND STONES** Break Up Meeting of Borough Council and Attack Members.

London, March 26 .- An extraordinary suffragette disturbance occurred today at a meeting of the Poplar borough council, which had voted adversely to letting out council halls for suffragette meetings.

With shouts of "cowards" and other offensive epithets, a large number of women invaded the section of the hall reserved for the councillors. Bombs containing evil-smelling chemicals were exploded by the scores; a bag containing similar substances was thrown from the gallery; bags of flour and stones were flung at the members. The councillors were seen struggling direct from Cape Henry, for the councillors were seen struggling direct from Cape Henry, for the councillors were seen struggling.

possession of the hall, with a few so-cialist members of the council, who remained to hear speeches delivered by Miss Zelie Emerson of Jackson, Mich.

d others. While Miss Emerson was speaking, the council ventured to return to the chamber and carried a resolution ex-cluding the public from the chamber for three months.

George Lansbury, a member of the council and a strong supporter of the militant movement, fiercely protes et against this proceeding as irregular, and threw the town clock, books and papers to the floor, amid cheers from the suffragettes.

The council meeting then adjourned,

Steamship Arrivals. Trieste, March 21.—Steamer Kalser ranz Josef I, New York, Liverpool, March 26.—Steamer Mer-

ion, Philadelphia, Genoa, March 25.—Steamer La Lor-raine, New York, Gibraltar, March 28.—Steamer Caronia. New York for Naples, New York, March 26. Steamer Eu-

rong Naples. Beginning April 1 the Memphis

El Paso, Texas, March 25 Conflict the rebels in retreat, or a renewal of the Torreon attack, no one could say.

OFFICIAL REPORT. Relative Positions of Opposing Armies Are Unchanged.

Chihuahua, Mexice, March 26.—An official report today says the rebels have established headquarters within a mile of Gomez Palacio and are try-ing to get closer to Torreon. Firing was heavy today, but the relative positions of the opposing armies with respect to Torreon are virtually unchanged.

FROM REBEL SOURCES. Torreon Said to Be Surrounded and Victory Expected.

Washington, March 26 .- The constitutionalist agency here tonight gave out the following telegram from Rafael Muzquiz, constitutionalist agent at Ei

"Gomez Palacio and Lerdo are in our hands and Torreon is completely surrounded. We are expecting victory at any hour.

TO DISMANTLE GUNBOAT. Rebels Conclude to Use Guns of the Tampico on Land.

Douglas, Ariz., March 26.—Bottled up in the harbor of Topolobampo, the gunboat Tampico is to be dismantled by the Mexican constitutionalists, according to advices that reached here today. The vessel's guns will be used on land in the defense of Topolobampo or sent to assist in prospective at-tacks upon Guaymas. Since the Tampico entered the harbor of Topolobampo two federal gun-boats, the Guerrero and Morelos, have stood outside, awaiting an opportunity to sink her.

Mexican Boy Shot.

Mexican Boy Shot.

Laredo, Texas, March 26.—Francisco Arbila, a Mexican lad aged 15, was shot in the cheek Tuesday while playing on an island in the Rio Grande here, near a point where some Mexican men were bathing. Some of the boys feered the bathers, it was said, whereupon one of the bathers fired, the shot striking. Arbits shot striking Arbila.

Mexico City, March 26-Confirmation Wagonloads of Dead and Wounded. Laredo, Texas, March 26.—Twentyfive wagons loaded with wounded or Velasco, was dead reached Nuevo Laredo today with eived at the the remnant of General Guardiola's federal command, which was defeated Monday at Guerrero while enroute to attack Matamoras.

> Rebel Sympathizers Celebrate. Juarez, Mexico, March 26 .- General Juarez, Mexico, March 25.—General Billa's telegram, as given out by General Chao, stating that he took Gomez Palacio this morning, was made the basis of an informal celebration among the peons here tonight. There was music by the military band, much throwing of confetti and a dozen impromptu parades. Only one press tel-egram came through—that of The Associated Press correspondent at Chi-hlahua, which did not confirm the alleged Villa report.

> Federal Report Discredited. Mexico City, March 26.—The govern-ment again tonight claimed victory at Torreon, although admitting that detalls were lacking, Extra editions of the newspapers were on the streets, based on the government's meagre despatch from San Pedro. In railroad circles, however, the news is discredited to a large extent on the ground that Hipoloto, 130 miles east of Tor-

CAPTAIN AND FIVE

OF CREW PERISHED. Boston Schooner Sunk Last Saturday No Details of Disaster.

Washington, March 26 .- Loss at sea of the American schooner Hattie P. Simpson of Boston, with her captain and five other members of the crew. was reported to the navy department tonight in a relayed wireless message from the steamship Caracas, which has on board four survivors of the schoon-

The councillors were soon struggling with the infuriated women, many of whom were armed with bludgeons and bottles. Shricks and shouts, the smashing of glass and the splintering of chairs completed one of the worst scenes of pandemonium in the history of the suffragette movement. The position were sent for, but for some reason and three men lost."

"Received from Caracas: F. Heshman, second mate: John Turner, seaman; John Maria, engineer; Charles Brown, seaman of schooner Hattle P. Simpson of Boston, Philadelphia for Galveston, 12 March, and abandoned and sunk morning 21. All remainder of crew, captain, first mate, steward and three men lost."

vain endeavor to resume the council proceedings, but finally the council beat a retreat, leaving the women in possession of the hall with week.

NEGRO CONFESSES

MURDER OF GIRL Case at Scranton Had Been a Mystery Twelve Years.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 26,-The mystery surrounding the murder of Mary Quinn at Scranton twelve years ago was cleared up tonight, according to the police, by the confession of Wil liam Pegram, a negro, who was ar-rested here on a charge of attempting

rested here on a charge of attempting to assault white girls in this city.

Pegram in his confession, the police declare, says he accosted the young woman on her way home from Hyde Park, a suburb of Scranton on the night of June 2, 1902. When she repulsed his advances, he secured a mine sprag from a nearby colliery yard and felled her with a blow on the head.

After heating her into insensibility After beating her into insensibility the confession says he dragged her into a clump of bushes, where the body was found next day,

William Wright, 15 years old, was shot and killed while playing "Indian" with Ralph Hills, 16, at Brewer, Me, | uary.

Cabled Paragraphs

Unrest in Venezuela. Willemstad, Curacao, March 26.—The political situation in Caracas is reported to be extremely unsettled.

Leguia Resigns in Peru. Lima, Peru, March 26.—The resignation was announced today of Roberto E. Leguia, who as first vice president took over the duties of president of Peru after President Billinghurst had been sent into exile.

Socialist Victory in Germany.

Dresden, March 26.—Theorists were victorious today in a bye-election in the Borna district, displacing General Von Liebert, imperialist, who was unseated in the reichstag owing to irregularities. The socialists thus regain their previous total of 111 seats.

WITNESSES TESTIFY IN TANNENBAUM'S BEHALF. Declare He Advised Followers Leave Church.

New York, March 26—Newspaper reporters and the unemployed testified today in defense of Frank Tannenbaum, the youthful leader of the Industrial Workers of the World, who is accused of taking part in an un-lawful assemblage of the "army" of idle men who invaded St. Alphonsus'

church on March 4. The third day of Tannenbaum's trial was marked by a demonstration of the unemployed when some of their number, who are to be called as Tan-

number, who are to be called as Tannenbaum's witnesses, shouted in the
corridors outside the court room that
the state must feed them if it expected them to testify, even though they
were not called by the state.
Tannenbaum, lastead of exherting
his followers to disorder after shelter
was refused them at St. Alphonsus, as
testified to by witnesses for the prosecution, tried to lead them peacefully
from the edifice, according to those
who took the stand in behalf of the who took the stand in behalf of the defendent today. Several of Tannen-baum's witnesses were men arrested on the night when the church was entered; they were brought from the Blackwell's Island penitentiary to tes-

Charles W. Plunkett, released from the workhouse on Tuesday, declared it was he who suggested the visit to the church. When the unemployed found they were not welcome there, he tes-tified, Tannenbaum said to them; "Come on boys, we are not wanted here; let's get out." But detectives stopped them, said Plunkett, telling them the police were coming and Tan-embaum said: "I can take these men out of here without the slightest dis-order."

George Kaufman and several other newspaper reporters contradicted the testimony of state's witnesses by de-claring there was no disorder in the church; that the unemployed did not stand on pew seats, and that all ex-cept a few near the door removed

MME, CAILLAUX WEEPS BEFORE MAGISTRATE. Greatly Disturbed Over Publication

the "Thy Joe" Letter.

which I have given."

M. Boucard sought an explanation of the discrepancies in Mme. Calllaux's redering the contention that the recital before him and the story she United States under the treaties has find in my act another cause than that

"In attacking your husband," said the magistrate, "M. Calmette was fight-ing the politician, not the private citizen. Moreover, the letter signed 'Thy Joe' concerned another woman." "Yes," responded the witness, "but

it was I who succeeded that woman as the wife of M. Calliaux. I will recall to you how M. Calmette, in an article March 16, bantered my husba garding the intimate nature of this letter: and that is not politics'

BULLET WAS FIRED

AT CLOSE RANGE. Report of Pathologists on Death of Chicago Society Woman.

Lexington, Ky., March 26.—The builet wound that caused the death of Mrs. Laura Willer Simpson, former Chicago society girl, who died here on Feb. 26 under what appeared to be peculiar circumstances, was inflicted at close range, according to the official report of two Chicago pathologists and a local physician, made public today. The report also said that no other marks of violence were found on the marks of violence were found on body. Mrs. Simpson was found on Feb. 22 by her husband at their home near here with a bullet wound through the head. She died the day following without regaining consciousness and two coroner's juries rendered non-committal verdicts, although both held that the case was not one of suicide.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

IN MASSACHUSETTS House and Senate Vote In Favor of Constitutional Amendment.

Boston March 26-By action of the house today, the legislature has voted for the first time in its history in favor of referring to the people the ques-tion of granting suffrage to women. The vote in the house was 168 to on a resolve which had already been favorably acted upon by the sen-ate, providing for an amendment to the constitution striking the word "male" from the qualifications for voters. The measure must receive favorable action in the legislature next year before it may go to the people for decisive vota. Should it pass the next legislature the voters would have an opportunity to act on the woman suffrage question at the state election of

Arkansas Senatorial Fight. Little Rock, Ark., March 26.-With approximately four-fifths of the vote in yesterday's democratic primary elec-tion accounted for, the contest pe-tween United States Senator James P. Clarke and William F. Kirby, associate justice of the state supreme court, candidates for the senatorial nominatien, still was in doubt tonight. Un-official returns gave Senator Clarks a total of 44,559 votes and Mr. Kirby 43,992, a lead of 667 votes for Senator

The Scarching Party including Cor-nelius Vanderbilt Whitney and his cousins, William Douglas Burden and James Abercromble Burden, Jr., found yesterday on October mountains, about a dozen moose from Harry Payne Whitney's herd of forty which has been missing from Lenex, Mass., since Jan-

Repeal Battle Opens in House

STRONG OPPOSITION TO LIMIT OF DEBATE.

MAD RUSH DENGUNCED

No Reason for It, Declares Speaker Clark-House Asked If It Trembles When British Lion Only Growls.

Washington, March 26.—The great-st legislative battle yet undertaken y President Wilson's administration was begun today with the presenta-tion of a special rule in the house to limit debate and prohibit amendment on the administration's proposal to repeal the provision of the Panama canal
act allowing free passage to American ships. For two hours the rule was
alternately defended and attacked in
heated debate in the house. When agjournment came, with an hour of debate on the rule left for tomorrow,
Speaker Champ Clark, who had not
yet announced his position on the repeal policy issued a statement visorpeal policy, issued a statement vigor-ously opposing the rule. "Surely there is nothing sacred about

this repeal bill and there is no reason for this mad rush," said the speaker's statement. "I will not be a party to ramming such a rule down the throats of members."

'An Abject Surrender to Great Britain."

At four o'clock Representative Hen-ry, chairman of the rules committee, presented the rule limiting debate on the Sims bill to twenty hours and pre-cluding amendment except for a single motion to recommit. Brief argument brought about an agreement for three hours of debate on the rule, and the preliminary skirmish of the greatest legislative struggle of a decade was

Representative Henry explained the Representative Henry explained the rule and launched into a defense of the repeal bill. Then followed an argument in which the rule received little attention, as compared with the merits of the measure, and the president's foreign policy, the right of the American government to exercise control of the canal it has built and the economic advisability of free toils for American ships were dragged back

economic advisability of free toils for American ships were dragged back and forth in the discussion.

The foreign situation was the particular subject for most of the speakers. The president's adherents who spoke, all democrats, declared that under the treaty the United States had no moral right to pass its ships free. His opponents, republicans and progressives, attacked the foreign policy of the administration and denounced the proposed repeal as an "abject surrender to Great Britain."

Compromise Amendment in View. Throughout the discussion Majority Leader Underwood, for the first time the "Thy Joe" Letter.

Paris March 26.—With a cry of indignation during her cross-examination by Magistrate Boucard today at the preliminary inquiry into the killing of M. Calmette, Mme. Calliaux reminded the magistrate how the Figaro had baited her husband about the "Thy Joe" letter. She then began to weep. Joe" letter. She then began to weep.
"I regret profoundly the consequences of my act," said the witness amid her tears. "I would prefer a thousand times that the campaign had continued rather than I should have thousand times that the campaign have continued rather than I should have situation the opponents of the bill killed M. Calmette. It is impossible to would attempt to open the Sims bill to amendment and might secure the

To Correct a Blunder

Representative Henry declared that free tolls plank of the Baltimore plat-form did not represent democratic sentiment and pointed out that when the tolls, while 94 voted against the pro-

"I propose," he said, "to aid in the correction of a blunder that has been committed by the American congress. This free tolls provision violates a treaty and contract we have with England and other nations. The president of the United States has come to the house and has summoned us to his aid in this great crisis and I propose

No Benefit to American People. Mr. Henry asserted that the Amer ican people secured no benefit from free tolls and asserted that the vessels that would profit from the exemp-tion are owned by the "steel trust, the Standard Oil trust, the Southern railway the New Haven railway, the Sea-board Air line."

"These are the people" he said "who are to make a million dollars a year because of this exemption." Representative Campbell, of Kansas. republican, opened the argument for the opponents of the rule.

Tremble at British Lion's Growl. "The contention of the gentleman from Texas," he said, "as to railroadowned ships is futile. The very owned ships is futile. The very terms of the Panama canal act, which it is not proposed to repeal, specifically forbid the use of the canal to failroadowned ships. The president told us a few days ago that, right or wrong, we must repeal this provision and in a mysterious fashion refers to the foreign policy of the administration. He told us that if we do not grant him this request in ungrudging measurements. him this request in ungrudging mure, he will not know what to do other very important matters. is the foreign policy of the adminis-tration? Does the president know? Nobody else does." Representative Campbell concluded

with the question: "The old American eagle lined its nest with the mane of the British lion; does the young American eagle tremble with fear when the British lion only grows." ion only growls

Progressive Opposition. Progressive Leader Murdock opposed

e rule, saying:
"I am not willing to surrender by my vote, in any spirit of easy accommodadation to Great Brritain, this nation's sovereignty over the canal. I do not know the relations which make Great Britain and Japan friends, or Japan and Huerta allies, or how near the truth the rumor is that we need the ald of Great Britain as Japan's friend to lighten our responsibility in Mexico. But the known facts, the visible facts, the arguable facts, are plain and elementary so far as our rights in the canal are concerned. Before the sur-render considerations of political and diplomatic exigency may becloud the issue. After the surrender will come clarity and national chagrin, and na-tional humiliation."

Defense by President. The president's position was vigorThe Federal Inspection of the head-quarters detachment, First Anfantry, C. N. G. (mounted scouts), will be made at the state armory in Hart-ford April 6.

Condensed Telegrams

A Non-Partisan Convention to revise the state constitution was favored in the platform adopted yesterday by the Maine democratic state convention.

Former Congressman John Q. Tilson, entered a hospital at New Haven yes-

terday to undergo a minor operation. It is nothing serious, it was stated.

Governor Adolph Eberhart of Mir nesota, yesterday announced his candi-dacy for renomination on the republi-can ticket at the primaries June 16.

Abraham DeHart, who was arrested at Washington, N. J., for disorderly conduct, went on a hunger strike and his condition became so serious that he was released.

Bank Commissioner August G. Thorndyke, of Massachusetts, expressed opposition to any state supervision of private banks in an opinion handed to the senate yesterday.

Three Hundred Employes of the Marinette-Menominee Paper company at Marinette, Wis., struck yesterday after their petition for a 25 cent a day increase in wages was denied,

Thieves Entered the Store of William Lyles at Cheneyville, La., and poured hot grease on his bare feet to make him tell the combination of the safe, but were frightened away.

Mayor Donovan of Meriden has arranged with Dr. C. A. Creeber and a nurse to be at his office today at the city hall to vaccinate all who come, at the rate of forty cents an operation. The State Police last night raided

restaurant at Hartford conducted by

R. Pisani, situated within half a block of the central police station. A quan-tity of liquor was precured as evi-Increases in Freight Rates on cement ranging from one to two cents a hundred pounds, proposed by railroads were suspended yesterday by the In-

Commerce commission until July 30. Important Records of Wellesley college, financial and scholastic, which were thought to have been destroyed when College hall was burned on March 17, were found undamaged yes-terday when a safe was opened.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's policy

of retrenchment and economy will be continued until the number of em-ployes on its lines east of Pittsburgh and Erie has been reduced from 142,-Edward D. Gilbert who was appointed as postmaster at Higganum by President Grant, and had held the

continuously with the exception during President Cleveland's terms, died yesterday aged 71 years. Serious Depletion of railway reven-ues through the allowance to lumber "tap lines" of a part of through rates was alleged in an argument filed yes-terday with the supreme court by counsel for the Interstate Commerce

or their sup-ure recruits, foreign ports during the annual summer practice cruise of the midshipmen from the United States Naval academy. land, are the two points where stops

Two Hundred and Fifty hotel proprietors of San Francisco agreed in an executive session of their association yesterday not to raise their charges above the rates now prevailing during the year of the Panama-Pacific international exposition.

G. C. Taylor, Vice President and general manager of the American press company yesterday issued statement denying recently published reports that his company would follow Panama canal act was passed only 72 the example of the United States Ex-democrats in the house voted for free press company and go out of business.

The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad company yesterday approved the appointment of Elisha Lee as general superintendent of the road to succeed E. F. Brooks, who will retire on April 1 under the pension rules of the company.

Josiah E. Fernald, administrator of the estate of Mary G. Eddy, founder of the Christian Science Church, completed the settlement of his account in the probate court at Concord, N. H., yesterday by turning over the sum of \$2,590,6322 to the trustees appointed

Administration Officials are deter mined that the validity of the clause of the present tariff law which grants a five percent discount on goods imported in American bottoms, shall be passed upon by the supreme court and not finally settled judicially by court of customs appeals.

Albert Freeman, who was convicted with Julian Hawthorne and Dr. W. J. Morton, of using the United States mails to defraud investors and sen-tenced to five years in the Atlanta prison, was granted a new trial yes-terday by Judge Mayer in the federal district court at New York.

As a Climax to a Series of outrages following the strike of weavers em-ployed by the Muller Gloria Silk mills, at South Norwalk, a bomb was exploded in the tenement house owned by Julian Von Kuczkowski, in Winnipauk, yesterday. The owner of the building is a stockholder in the mills.

held out to the nations of the world the promise to build the canal for all the world. We prommised to build it as a great boon to humanity through out the world, not for small dollars and cents advantage to our commerce. In this situation the American nation does nothing out of fear, nothing be-cause of the threat of any nation or group of nations. But it is not willing to rest in the eyes of the world as having violated a treaty or having vio-lated its promise so long held out to the nations of the world."

Minority Leader Mann said that the

importance of the measure merited a more complete deliberation and more therough consideration than could be given under the proposed rule. He cited a dozen instances in which he said that this government had construed the contested treaty provision and said that no "gag rule" should prevent free discussion of a proposal to reverse these constructions

"I see no reason," he said, "why we should surrender our rights in this matter on a fancied plea of honor. Honor is involved on both sides, It here is a real question of henor here ously defended by Representative it is that of Great Britain seeking to drive a hard bargain with this administration. Our honor in this matter is bill," he said, "with no apology for above suspicion, Great Britain's our position. Per 75 years we have open to attack"

Withdrawal of Resignations

FRENCH AND EWART URGED TO RECONSIDER.

WILL SACRIFICE SEELY

Secretary of War to Be Removed to Placate Field Marshal and Adjutant General-Cavalry Officers Obdurate.

London, March 26.—That the government is still facing a situation of extreme difficulty is proved by the fact that Premier Asquith was not in a position tonight to make his promised statement in parliament and it was consequently postnoned until towas consequently postponed until to-

morrow. Resignation of Field Marshal.

The air is full of extravagant rumors, among the most credible being the report that Colonei Seely is after all, to quit the war office, by an exchange of portfolios with Lewis Harcourt, secretary for the colonies. The colly new facts in the situation today only new facts in the situation today were to be found in the resignation of Field Marshal Sir John French, chief of the imperial general staff and Sir John Spencer Swart, adjutant gen-eral, from the army council. The rumor persists that other mem-bers of the army council have ro-signed, but this cannot be confirmed.

Resignations Withdrawn. Negotiations and conferences between Buckingham Palace, the war office and Downing street were carried on throughout the day and it was known that the strongest efforts were being made to induce Field Marshal French and General Ewart to reconsider their action. The prime minister called a hurried meeting of the cabinet at his residence after it was cabinet at his residence after it wa

decided to postpone the statement to parliament. At midnight Field Marshal French authorized the statement that his rea-ignation had neither been accepted nor withdrawn

Seely Must Retire. Nothing is likely to be known offi-cially until Premier Asquith makes his statement in the house of com-mons, when it will probably be found that the removal of Colonel Seely from the war office is the price for the with-drawal of the resignations of Generals French and Ewart and that the ar-rangement of this matter was the rea-son for the postponement of the pre-mier's statement.

mier's statement.

According to the best information. According to the best information, the conference at the war office this afternoon of all the principal commanding generals of the army was called to enable Generals French and Ewart to explain that their resignation was a personal matter arising solely from the fact that they signed the Gough memorandum, which the government had since repudiated, and they orged that all their officers should remain at their posts.

Seely to Be Sacrificed.

Then followed interviews with the ministers and an audience with the king, with a view to inducing them to reconsider their action. But both generals, French and Ewart, remained firm in their decision that it would firm in their decision that it would be impossible for them to retain their posts while Colonel Seely remained secretary of war. They were willing, however, to withdraw their resignations if Colonel Seely was removed. Faced by this ultimatum and the knowledge that a strong feeling against Colonel Seely existed among a large section of the radical supporters of the government, the prime minister the government, the prime minister the government, the prime minister seems to have arrived at the conclusion that he must abandon Colonel Seely. The difficulty in rearranging the ministry has caused the delay in Mr. Asquith's statement. There has been talk of appointing Judge Burns, who is now president of the local government board, secretary for war and a report has also been current of an exchange of sortfolios between Lewis

exchange of portfolios between Lewis Other Changes Probable. It is generally believed, however, that it will be found that Colonel Seely has again resigned and his resignation has accepted; that Lewis Harcourd been selected to replace him and that Lord Emmet, under-secretary the colonies, will be promoted to the colonial office. Another cabinet council will be held

Friday before parliament assembles; so it is quite possible that there will be other, perhaps unexpected changes in the kaleidoscopic situation. Quiet in Ireland. In Ireland no change has occurred. In Ireland no change has occurred. Belfast remains quiet and although it is asserted that the officers at the Curragh camp are determined to resign because of the repudiation of Colonel Seely's guarantee by the government of the control resign because of the repudiation of the control resignation of the control residual resignation of the control residual resid ernment no actual resignations, so far

as is known, have occurred Officers Persist in Resigning-Dublin, March 26.—A majority of the cavalry officers at Curragh adhere to their determination to resign rather than obey orders and serve against Ulster. They are indignant at what they term the bad faith displayed by the government in repudiating the agreement made with Brigadier Gen-eral Gough, commander of the Third commander of the Third

Killed by Exploding Retert.

cavalry brigade,

Sewaren, N. J., March 26 .- A retort filled with an explosive being used in conducting synthetic rubber experi-ments burst in a private laboratory here today, instantly killing Clifford D. Mecker, a consulting engineer, whose body was hurled through a window into the street. George Titus was blown across the room and stunned but was saved from death by some steel plates which broke the force of the explosion in his direction.

La Touraine Making Slow Trip New York, March, 26-A wireless message from the steamer La Tou-raine today informed the French Line agents here the she had met heavy agents here the sne had met heavy weather and was steaming at slow speed because of trouble with her ma-chinery. Captain Caussin reported that all aboard were well and that the steamer, now three days overdue, would reach New York Friday night

or Saturday morning. Southern Pacific Revenues Decrease San Francisco, March 26—For the eight months ending February 28, 1914, the Southern Pacific company showed a decrease in gross revenue of \$1.202, 127 and a decrease in the revenue in excess of enerating expenses and taxes of \$4,545,748.

Steamers Reported by Wireless. Brow Head, March 26.—Steamer Imperator, New York for Cherbourg. Southampton and Hamburg, signalised 426 miles southwest at 5.75 cm. Due Cherbourg 7.30 a.m. Prider.